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REMARKS

In reply to the Office Action of March 2, 2004, applicant submits the following remarks. Claims 1-2, 5, 7, 12, 14, 18-19, 21, 22, 25, 27, 29-30, 32, 33, 36, 38, 39, 41, 43-47, 49, 87, 88, 96, 99 and 100 have been amended. Claims 101-109 have been added. No new matter has been added. Claim 20 has been cancelled. Claims 1-19, 21-50, 86-93 and 95-109 are now pending after entry of this amendment. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Section 112 Rejections

Claims 18, 32 and 45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

The applicant has amended claims 18, 32 and 45 to more clearly define the structural relationship of the claimed invention. The applicant believes the amendments address the Examiner's concerns and that the claims are now in conditions for allowance.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1-16 and 95-100 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,804,917 ("Takahashi"). The applicant respectfully disagrees.

Amended claim 1 recites a device having a substrate with at least two active components formed on a top surface of the substrate. A first laminate is over the top surface of the substrate, encapsulating at least the active components. The first laminate includes a barrier layer and a protective layer formed on a plastic film with the barrier layer closer to the active components than the plastic film and the plastic film between the barrier layer and the protective layer. The barrier layer is capable of inhibiting diffusion of air or moisture. The protective layer includes a polymeric resin and forms a hard coat.

Takahashi teaches an organic electroluminescent device having a lower substrate 3 and an upper substrate 1 (FIG. 2, col. 4, lines 40-67). The upper substrate 1 is made of glass and has a getter material application area 2 where the getter is applied to an inner surface of the upper substrate 1 (*id.*). The lower substrate is made of a transparent material (*id.*). The lower substrate has an organic electroluminescent display formed thereon (*id.*).

The upper substrate as described in Takahashi has layer of glass with a getter layer, where the getter layer is closer to the organic electroluminescent display. Takahashi does not describe the upper substrate as a first laminate that includes a barrier layer formed on a plastic film with the barrier layer closer to active components than the plastic film. For at least this reason, the applicant submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by Takahashi. Claims 2-16 and 95-98 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are similarly not anticipated. Claim 99 also recites a device with a laminate over the top surface of a substrate having active components formed thereon, where the laminate includes a barrier layer and a protective layer formed on a plastic film with the barrier layer closer to the active components than the plastic film. For at least the reason provided above with respect to claim 1, the applicant submits that claim 99 is not anticipated by Takahashi. Claim 100 depends from claim 99 and is similarly not anticipated by Takahashi.

Claims 1-16, 86-93 and 95-100 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,175,186 ("Matsuura"). The applicant respectfully disagrees.

Matsuura describes an organic electroluminescent element with a sealing plate 7 and a substrate 2 on which the electrode 4 and organic layer 5 are formed (FIG. 1, col. 2, lines 12-25). The sealing plate is made of glass, an oxide or a nitride ceramic (col. 7, lines 60-67). A moisture absorbing layer, such as a polymer, can be placed on the inner side of the sealing plate 7 (col. 8, lines 24-34).

Although Matsuura describes a sealing plate with a moisture absorbing layer, the sealing plate is formed of glass or a ceramic. Matsuura does not describe a laminate that includes a barrier layer and a protective layer formed on a plastic film with the barrier layer closer to the

active components than the plastic film. Because both of claims 1 and 99 require this limitation, the applicant submits that neither of claims 1 or 99 are anticipated by Matsuura. Claims 2-16, 86-93 and 95-98 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are similarly not anticipated. Claim 100 depends from claim 99 and also not anticipated by Matsuura.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 17-21, 29-35 and 43-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,592,969 (Burroughes). The applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claims 17-21, 29-35 and 43-46 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and therefore include the limitations of claim 1 as amended.

Burroughes describes a substrate for organic devices where an outer protective element includes a composite structure CS of glass 4 and plastic 2 (FIG. 1, Abstract). An upper encapsulation film 14 can be included that is the composite structure CS or a film/composite that has metal as the dominant barrier film, e.g., a metal foil or metal covered plastic film (FIG. 5, col. 7, lines 28-34). The plastic layer can be a polymer, such as, epoxy-resin, polyurethane, phenol formaldehyde resin, and melamine-formaldehyde resin (col. 3, lines 52-60).

Takahashi does not suggest or disclose a laminate that includes a barrier layer and a protective layer formed on a plastic film. Burroughes lists resins that can be used as the polymer that forms the plastic of a laminated glass and plastic composite structure, but Burroughes does not suggest a laminate that includes a protective layer formed on a plastic film, where the protective layer includes a polymeric resin and forms a hard coat. Because the cited references fail to disclose or suggest at least a laminate are required by amended claim 1, the applicant submits that no *prima facie* showing of obviousness has been established with respect to claims 17-21, 29-35 and 43-46, which are therefore allowable over the combination of Takahashi and Burroughes.

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New Claims


Claims 101-109 are new. The applicant submits that no new matter has been added with the additional claims.

Enclosed is a \$110 check for the Petition for One-Month Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other appropriate charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

July 1, 2001



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